BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

2008-00788/

INFORMATION BULLETIN

For Immediate Release
2007AG0043-001654
Dec. 28, 2007

Ministry of Attorney General
and Minister responsible for Multiculturalism

B.C. ELIMINATES MANDATORY RETIREMENT

VICTORIA – As of Jan. 1, 2008, employees can choose when they want to retire. Changes to human rights legislation protect all people 19 years and over from discrimination on the basis of age. This means people cannot be forced to retire.

The law will apply to most workplaces in British Columbia, except those regulated by the federal government.

The change to B.C.'s Human Rights Code – introduced last May – is the result of a recommendation from the Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues. The change gives mature workers in British Columbia choices to continue their contribution to the workforce, if that is their wish.

As the growing population of mature workers reach retirement age within the next decade, eliminating mandatory retirement will allow the workforce to retain people with significant skill sets and experience. People who choose to retire at or before age 65 will be able to continue to do so.

Until the new law is in force on Jan. 1, age discrimination protection under the Human Rights Code applies to adults 19 to 64. The change is not retroactive, meaning that it does not compel businesses to rehire an employee if the person has already retired.

Further information is available at: www.ag.gov.bc.ca/mandatory-retirement/.

-30-

Media contact: David Townsend
Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Attorney General
250 387-4962

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.